# FAX TRANSMISSION

**DATE:** July 16, 2003

**PTO IDENTIFIER:** **Application Number** 09/402,121-Conf. #5570
**Patent Number**
**Inventor:** Jarkko Valtanen

**MESSAGE TO:** Y. Horton
**FAX NUMBER:** (703) 872-9326

**FROM:** CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
C. Keith Montgomery
**PHONE:** (202) 331-7111
**Attorney Dkt. #:** 21625-00023-US

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Petition Under 37 CFR 1.181(a) To Withdraw Holding Of Abandonment (1 page)
Copy of Amendment filed March 7, 2003 w/Auto-Reply Confirmation (14 pages)



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#16
2 Ltr

Docket No.: 21625-00023-US-(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:
Jarkko Valtanen

Application No.: 09/402,121 Group Art Unit: 3635

Filed: September 30, 1999 Examiner: Y. Horton

For: JOINT ARRANGEMENT

**PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.181(a) TO WITHDRAW HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT**

Mail Stop Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant petitions the Examiner to withdraw the Notice of Abandonment mailed July 1, 2003. The Examiner states that no Reply to the December 16, 2002 Office Action had been received. Applicant filed a Reply on March 7, 2003. A copy of the March 7 Reply, including the Auto-Reply confirmation page is attached to this paper.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this petition. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21625-00023-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 16, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By C. Keith Montgomery

C. Keith Montgomery
Registration No.: 45,254
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

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DATE: March 7, 2003

PTO IDENTIFIER: Application Number 09/403121
Patent Number
Inventor: Jarkko Valtanen

MESSAGE TO: Y. Horton
FAX NUMBER: 703-872-9326

FROM: Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP
C. Keith Montgomery
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Attorney Dkt. #: 21625-00023-US

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CONTENTS: Amendment in response to Office Action mailed December 16, 2002 (9 pgs)

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# FAX TRANSMISSION

**DATE:** March 7, 2003

**PTO IDENTIFIER:** **Application Number** 09/402121
**Patent Number**

**Inventor:** Jarkko Valtanen

**MESSAGE TO:** Y. Horton

**FAX NUMBER:** 703-872-9326

**FROM:** Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP
C. Keith Montgomery

**PHONE:** (202) 331-7111

**Attorney Dkt. #:** 21625-00023-US

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**CONTENTS:** Amendment in response to Office Action mailed December 16, 2002 (9 pgs)

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Dina Beswick
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Amendment Transmittal (1 page).
Amendment (9 pages)



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# AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Docket No. 21625-00023-US

| Application No. | Filing Date | Examiner | Art Unit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 09/402121 | September 30, 1999 | Y. Horton | 3635 |

Applicant(s): Jarkko Valtanen

Invention: JOINT ARRANGEMENT

**TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

**CLAIMS AS AMENDED**

| | Claims Remaining After Amendment | Highest Number Previously Paid | Number Extra Claims Present | Rate | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Claims | 13 | - 20 = | | x | 0.00 |
| Independent Claims | 2 | - 3 = | | x | 0.00 |
| Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) ☐ | | | | | |
| Other fee (please specify): | | | | | |
| TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT: | | | | | 0.00 |

☒ Large Entity ☐ Small Entity

☒ No additional fee is required for this amendment.

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of $ _____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☐ A check in the amount of $ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 22-0185 as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ Credit any overpayment.

☒ Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.

C. Keith Montgomery

Dated: March 7, 2003

C. Keith Montgomery
Attorney Reg. No.: 45,254

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
P. O. Box 2207
Wilmington, Delaware 19899-2207
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**Attorney Docket No. (2)1625/00023**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Applicant(s): Jarkko VALTANEN | ) | |
| Serial No.: 09/402,121 | ) | Art Unit: 3635 |
| Filed: September 30, 1999 | ) | Examiner: Y. Horton |
| Title: JOINT ARRANGEMENT | ) | |

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the December 16, 2002 Office Action, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-6.

Please add new claims 14-20:

14. In combination, a plurality of joint arrangements and a plurality of surface structures, the surface structures being intended for temporarily protecting and covering a ground surface, wherein:

each surface structure comprises:

one or more corners;

thermal insulation having at least one thermal insulation layer;

recesses formed at a bottom surface of the surface structure; and

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one or more platform structures projecting from the bottom surface of the surface structure, the platform structures projecting a distance greater than a wall thickness of the surface structure, and wherein

each joint arrangement comprises:

a joint piece comprising a frame part defining one or more corners; and

one or more projections located at the corners, wherein the recesses in the surface structure generally correspond in shape to the projections of the joint piece, wherein

one or more recesses are defined between adjacent platform structures and the frame part of the joint arrangement has an open center, and at least a portion of the frame part fits within the recesses between adjacent platform structures, the height of the recesses corresponding essentially to a thickness of the frame part.

15. The combination of claim 14, wherein the one or more platform structures comprise one or more square shaped platforms on the bottom surfaces of the surface structures, and wherein the platforms embed into the open centers of the frame parts.

16. The combination of claim 14, wherein the recesses are arranged at each corner of the surface structures.

17. The combination of claim 14 wherein the surface structures comprise coupling means having male and female couplers located at the outer edges of the surface structures, the male couplers being arranged at opposite edges of the surface structures, and the female couplers being arranged at opposite outer edges of the surface structures.

18. The combination of claim 17, wherein the male couplers are projections located at lower edges of longitudinal outer edges of the surface structures, and the corresponding



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female couplers are recesses in lower edges of crosswise outer edges.

19. The combination of claim 17, wherein the male and female couplers comprise an auxiliary support/sealing assembly having counterpart surfaces located at upper edges of the outer surfaces of the surface structures at an angle (α), which deviates from vertical.

20. The combination of claim 14, wherein the thermal insulation comprises plastic, and wherein the frame parts have a square shape.



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## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the application as amended. Claims 1-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 14-20 have been added by this amendment. Claims 7 and 14 are independent. Claims 7-13 are allowed.

### *Telephone Interview*

Applicant thanks the Examiner for granting the telephone interview of January 23, 2003. During the interview, the Examiner noted that there was no structural link between the surface structures and the joint arrangements.

### *Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd Paragraph*

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this amendment, claims 1-6 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot. Claims 14-20, addressed to joint arrangements and surface structures in combination, and defining the relationship therebetween, are believed to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

### *Conclusion*

In light of the above remarks, Applicant believes the application to be in condition for allowance.

Enclosed as Appendix I is a clean copy of the pending claims 14-20.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below. Applicant's undersigned attorney requests a telephone



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interview before the Examiner issues a further Office Action if there is any reason the Examiner believes the application as amended should not be allowed.

No fee is believed due before the Examiner may consider this Response and Amendment. Should the Commissioner find that any fee is due before the Examiner may consider this paper, including any fee for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 and 37 CFR §1.17, such extension is requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

Date: March 7, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

C. Keith Montgomery

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(202) 331-7111 telephone
(202) 293-6229 facsimile
Attorneys for Applicant

Enclosure: Appendix I – clean copy of all pending claims

209939v1(CB)



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## APPENDIX I

7. A temporary ground covering, comprising:

a plurality of surface structures each having a substantially planar top surface of thermal insulation and a bottom surface from which support projections extend;

a joint means for removably connecting the plurality of surface structures;

said joint means forming a parallelogram frame structure with an open center that receives one support projection from each of the surface structures; and

said joint means having four locking means, projecting from and forming an essentially normal angle with a substantially planar surface of the frame structure at each corner, each for interlocking with a corresponding recess member formed in a bottom surface corner of one attached surface structure, wherein

said support projections of each support structure lift the surface structure to form a gap between the ground surface and portions of the bottom surface not having support projections extending beneath them, and

the height of each support projection corresponds essentially with the thickness of the frame structure.

8. The temporary ground covering of claim 7, wherein:

the open center of the frame structure receives a support projection from each of four surface structures attached to the joint means.

9. The temporary ground covering of claim 7, wherein:

the joint means has eight locking means, two at each corner of the frame structure, and

the two locking means at each corner of the frame structure interlock with two corresponding recess members formed in a bottom surface corner of one attached surface structure.

209939v1(CB)



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10. The temporary ground covering of claim 7, wherein:

the top surface of each surface structure is essentially square shaped; and

each surface structure has a coupling means, having a male coupler or a female coupler arranged on each side edge of the surface structure with the male and female couplers formed opposite one another, for coupling the side edges of each surface structure to the side edges of other surface structures.

11. The temporary ground covering of claim 10, wherein:

each male coupler has a side projection extending from a lower portion of the side edge and each female coupler has a corresponding recess on a lower portion of the side edge for mating with the side projection of the connected male coupler.

12. The temporary ground covering of claim 10, wherein:

the male and female couplers comprise a sealing means, having counterpart surfaces formed on an upper portion of their respective side edges, for sealing the joined edges of connected surface structures, and

the counterpart surfaces form an angle that deviates from a normal line of the top surface.

13. The temporary ground covering of claim 12, wherein:

the angle the counterpart surfaces form with the normal line of the top surface is approximately 15 degrees.



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14. In combination, a plurality of joint arrangements and a plurality of surface structures, the surface structures being intended for temporarily protecting and covering a ground surface, wherein:

each surface structure comprises:

one or more corners;

thermal insulation having at least one thermal insulation layer;

recesses formed at a bottom surface of the surface structure; and

one or more platform structures projecting from the bottom surface of the surface structure, the platform structures projecting a distance greater than a wall thickness of the surface structure, and wherein

each joint arrangement comprises:

a joint piece comprising a frame part defining one or more corners; and

one or more projections located at the corners, wherein the recesses in the surface structure generally correspond in shape to the projections of the joint piece, wherein

one or more recesses are defined between adjacent platform structures and the frame part of the joint arrangement has an open center, and at least a portion of the frame part fits within the recesses between adjacent platform structures, the height of the recesses corresponding essentially to a thickness of the frame part.

15. The combination of claim 14, wherein the one or more platform structures comprise one or more square shaped platforms on the bottom surfaces of the surface structures, and wherein the platforms embed into the open centers of the frame parts.

16. The combination of claim 14, wherein the recesses are arranged at each corner of the surface structures.



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17. The combination of claim 14 wherein the surface structures comprise coupling means having male and female couplers located at the outer edges of the surface structures, the male couplers being arranged at opposite edges of the surface structures, and the female couplers being arranged at opposite outer edges of the surface structures.

18. The combination of claim 17, wherein the male couplers are projections located at lower edges of longitudinal outer edges of the surface structures, and the corresponding female couplers are recesses in lower edges of crosswise outer edges.

19. The combination of claim 17, wherein the male and female couplers comprise an auxiliary support/sealing assembly having counterpart surfaces located at upper edges of the outer surfaces of the surface structures at an angle ($\alpha$), which deviates from vertical.

20. The combination of claim 14, wherein the thermal insulation comprises plastic, and wherein the frame parts have a square shape.



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